

# The Dominion Illustrated.

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## PUBLISHERS' NOTICES.

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It has long been an open secret that our salmon limits have been ceded without judgment, entailing serious loss to the exchequer. On the Restigouche there is a contest against the suppression of net privileges, and the natives complain that the "rich Americans" have too much influence with the Government officials. On the Cascapedia the people of New Richmond hold that the water held by the Governors-General would bring a great deal more than the present rental of \$500 for a magnificent stretch of that splendid river, if thrown open to competition. The subject is worthy of legislative consideration.

Travellers bring the best news from two colonies of settlers in the Northwest. The Icelanders, south of Glenboro, occupy a rich domain, with fine farms under cultivation, good roads and comfortable buildings. They adapt themselves well to the ways of the country, are thrifty and take an interest in territorial affairs. Even more may be said in behalf of the Mennonites, who have been long enough in the country to show that the experiment of their transportation was a happy one. The South Russians have the knack of money-making, thus reaping the reward of hard toil.

We were among the first to express regret that Dr. Daniel Wilson, of Toronto, should have thought fit to decline the honour of knighthood,

giving the very reason which it seems prevailed on him to reserve his decision—that he was thus chosen, not only for his own merits, but as a representative of Canadian letters and of the worthy teaching class. We have no sympathy with the spirit that carps at these distinctions. They are old and historical and part of a sound English system of rewards, outside altogether of ribbon, medal, cross and parchment.

A reverend writer, in the *Forum*, makes an onslaught on the funereal customs of the day, going the length of calling them "barbaric." We fear that this is rather strong speech. We question whether it applies to the United States; it certainly does not apply to the Southern and South-western States. It is clearly unjust as regards Canada, where these ceremonies are conducted in a decorous, Christian way, and where nothing is inconsistent "with good taste, intelligent morality and a spiritual religion."

The scheme of Imperial Federation is keeping its hold on public notice on both sides of the Atlantic. A curious mistake with regard to its votaries is, however, that the Tories of Britain and Canada are at the bottom of the "fad," while the truth is as much the other way. The Liberals of England and Ireland, headed by Messrs. Gladstone and Parnell, declared their adhesion to it in open Parliament, the other day, while, in this country, the Liberal leaders, Mr. Blake and Sir Richard Cartwright, have both favoured it in public speeches. The fact is that the question, if understood as it should be—else the project would have no ennobling influence—soars high above petty party divisions.

The Province of Ontario, which generally leads, and is never backward, in the path of improvement, is about introducing a long-wanted reform in the management of her gaols and asylums. The lunatics who were confined within penal walls, for want of special accommodation elsewhere, will now be transferred to the new wing or "annex" of the Hamilton Asylum, just completed. The change will be hailed in every part of the province, and we shall hear no more of the complaints and warnings, on that score, of grand jurymen, at the meetings of the courts of assizes.

In no mood of surprise, but with a grim bow to the despotism of party spirit, we learn the impending defeat of the Fisheries Treaty, in the Senate of the United States. In that body the Opposition have a majority of only two, which will likely be altered to a minority within the next few months, and with that feeble lever they upset a measure of the gravest importance, the work of two governments looking with a single eye to peace and union, and backed by a large majority in the popular branch—the House of Representatives. In spite of all, a loophole of survival will still be found, and the Fisheries question will be satisfactorily settled.

France had better have a care. The publication of vital statistics again shows that she is being gnawed by a cancer. Natality is lessening there at an alarming rate. Births are out of all proportion with deaths. While the small nations around are growing through natural fecundity, the population of France is decreasing from year to year. If the evil goes on, as it will, in half a century from now France will rank only sixth among the nations of Europe. It is a painful subject, but the lesson

is a searching one, which no vain reasoning can get over, that, between religious Brittany and free-and-easy Normandy, the yearly births of the former are 33 for each 1000, while in the latter, they are only 19.

The question of lotteries is being faintly brought up in this Province, the Local Government being desirous of testing the legality of advertisements published by the Le Monde Printing Company for the Louisiana State Lottery, bringing suit against the same therefor. It is to be hoped that the whole subject of lotteries, while we are at it, will be aired in the courts and the press, as there is wide divergence of views among dwellers in Lower Canada on the point. With regard to the famous Louisiana Lottery, it may be of help for some people to remember that the two superintendents thereof are General Early, a good churchman for a soldier, and General Beauregard, another good churchman, who is of French-Canadian descent from the Toutant family of Three Rivers.

There is nothing like going back to first principles. In this age of verbiage, flippancy and presumption, it is well to remember that man and the world are governed by a few slight rules, the forgetting or forsaking of which throws the whole gear out of groove. Dr. Lavell, Warden of Kingston penitentiary, has learned this, through sight and sound of the wretched lives that are locked up under his eye. The Doctor does not seem to say much, but he speaks whole books when he states that the starting point of most of the criminals under his charge may be traced to disobedience to parents, bad company and neglect of Sunday worship.

## THE REFLUENT TIDE.

In "Evangeline," the poet speaks of the returning tide that, afar from the waste of the ocean, comes heaving and hurrying forward. This image is being applied by some enthusiastic papers of the West to a so-called movement of repatriation from the United States into Ontario and other provinces of the Dominion. The story is given out that quite an appreciable number of Upper Canadians who went westward, on the American side, to improve their fortunes, have come back to their former homes, quite satisfied that they can live better, cheaper and with more comfort in their own land. We should like to believe that this account is strictly true; that it embraces a sufficient number of returns worth talking about and building a theory on, and, indeed, that the repatriation is not merely sporadic and intermittent. But the facts which have reached us allow of no such assurance, and we have to fall back, in this instance, as in so many others in a people's life, on the stern routine of money and climactic needs, and the notions, fancies and prejudices of individuals.

The situation is still more glaring in the Province of Quebec. Both parties have been courting popularity, with large grants of money, to induce the thousands of their emigrants to come back. Most unjustifiable political capital has been made of the "exodus" to the United States, often to the abuse of one or the other political parties, and always to the depreciation of the credit and prestige of Lower Canada. The writer is thoroughly acquainted with this whole subject. He knows all